



That Time Mahmoud Abbas Changed His Story About the Palestinian Refugees

David Lange February 23, 2018 Mahmoud Abbas, Palestinian

We already know that PA President Mahmoud Abbas loves to change the palestinian narrative he puts forward. For instance, remember [his claim at the UN the other day](#) that the palestinians are “the descendants of the Canaanites that lived in the land of Palestine 5,000 years ago”? Well, he’s also claimed they descend from the [Canaanites of 3,500 years ago](#), and the [Philistines \(a completely different people to the Canaanites\) of 6,000 years ago](#). This all also contradicts a claim by his colleague Saeb Erekat, who claimed they are [descended from Canaanites of 10,000 year ago](#).



Well, I’ve found another of his changing stories, this time regarding the palestinian refugees.

In 2014, [Abbas told students in Ramallah](#):

Someone asked me: How [could we receive] Israeli citizenship? I said: You are returning to the state of Israel. After all, the refugees, numbered at five million, and their children – **were all expelled from**



Search



the 1948 territories. There is no refugee from Nablus or Ramallah.

in Tiberius, Acre, Safed, Nazareth, Jaffa or Beersheba. If you want to return to Israel and receive an Israeli citizenship or not – you are free [to decide].”

But almost 40 years earlier, he was quoted in the March 1976 issue of *Falastine a-Thaura* (then the official journal of the PLO in Beirut) as saying

“The Arab armies entered Palestine to protect the Palestinians from the Zionist tyranny but, instead, **they abandoned them, forced them to emigrate and to leave their homeland**, and threw them into prisons similar to the ghettos in which the Jews used to live.”

I think this is an example of Mahmoud Abbas realizing over the years that he better change the narrative to garner more sympathy for his cause. PLO members in Beirut in the 1970s were committed to Israel’s destruction anyway. Telling them the refugees were created because of actions of the Arab armies (and not expelled by Israel) wouldn’t change that. But students in Ramallah in 2014? Some might be more “enlightened”, and in need of some extra propaganda against Israel to generate more of that rage.

By the way, there’s another of his changing narratives in there as well. While he told the Ramallah students that the refugees “numbered at 5 million”, he mentioned 6 million during his **recent UN speech**.

Remember, if you have truth on your side, you don’t have to lie.

[PREVIOUS](#)

Great Moments in Self-Hatred and Del... Guest Post: Interview With Prof. Richa...

[NEXT](#)



Search here



author



David Lange

A law school graduate, David Lange transitioned from work in the oil and hi-tech industries into fulltime Israel advocacy. He is a respected commentator and Middle East analyst who has often been cited by the mainstream media

Make a Difference!
DONATE

What do you think?

0 Responses



Upvote



Funny



Love



Surprised



Angry



Sad

0 Comments

 Login ▾

G

Start the discussion...

LOG IN WITH

Radical Truth
Telling

OR SIGN UP WITH DISQUS 

Name

Email

Password

By clicking submit, I authorize Disqus, Inc. and its affiliated companies to:

1. Use, sell, and share my information to enable me to use its comment services and for marketing purposes, including cross-context behavioral advertising, as described in our [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#)
2. Supplement the information that I provide with additional information lawfully obtained from other sources, like demographic data from public sources, interests inferred from web page views, or other data relevant to what might interest me, like past purchase or location data
3. Contact me or enable others to contact me by email with offers for goods and services (from any category) at the email address provided
4. Process any sensitive personal information that I submit in a comment for the purpose of displaying the comment
5. Retain my information while I am engaging with marketing messages that I receive and for a reasonable amount of time thereafter. I understand I can opt out at any time through an email that I receive. Companies that we share data with are listed [here](#).



Search



Israellycool, one of Israel's largest English-language blogs, is a project of Israellycool Israel Advocacy, a registered Israeli non-profit.

Make a Difference!
DONATE

[About](#)

[Legal](#)

[Contact](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[What others say about Israellycool](#)

[Notable Mentions](#)

admin@israellycool.org

[Israel](#)

Daily Updates

Delivered straight to your mailbox



Search here



Last Name

Email

By signing up, you agree to our terms

SUBSCRIBE